

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Savage.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Mr. President, members of this Legislature. LB 238 is to amend the existing off-street parking act applicable to the city of Omaha to allow such cities to create off-street parking facilities in business areas. The bill is permissive and it's only for metropolitan cities. It would allow the city of a metropolitan class to own, purchase, construct, equip, and lease off-street motor vehicle parking facilities situated so as to serve business, the central business district or business in the long established outlying neighborhood business district. I live out in the Benson area and business has been declining in my area because of lack of parking, the same is true in South Omaha. The bill will allow people to petition, 51% of the people in the neighborhood to petition the city council for this and the city would also authorize to create the parking district by ordinance. All assessment would be equalized, levied, and collected as provided by law for the equalization, levy, and collection of special assessments. I move that the bill be moved from General File to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues. This bill seems very close to the bill we just talked about. I don't see a lot of difference between these two bills, in fact, I don't see too much difference between these two bills and Senator Maresh's Hubbell bill. It seems like we're creating again another taxing district which has to be put on property. Senator Savage, could you tell me how this bill differs from the preceding bill? It also creates a subtaxing division.

SENATOR SAVAGE: No, this bill creates a parking district and the city of Omaha can lease it to an organization, like the Easy Parking Company and they pay off by assessing the area around it. They buy it with obligation bonds.

SENATOR DWORAK: This bill allows the city of Omaha, we're talking about the city of Omaha now, only the city of Omaha?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Only cities of metropolitan class and I think Omaha is the only one in that category.

SENATOR DWORAK: To issue revenue bonds to build parking lots. That's essentially what we're talking about.

SENATOR SAVAGE: On petition of the business district, 51% of the people in that area, yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: 51% of the business people only?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Right.